



Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Control Program

2002 Epidemiology Fact Sheet

Asian/Pacific Islander Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2001, 3,552 TB cases were reported in Asian/Pacific Islanders representing 22.2% of the total 15,989 TB cases in the nation. The incidence rate of tuberculosis in Asian/Pacific Islanders was higher than in any other racial/ethnic group (32.7 cases per 100,000). The incidence was (2.4) times the rate of African Americans (13.8 cases per 100,000), almost three times the rate of Hispanics (11.9 cases per 100,000), and 20.4 times the rate of Non-Hispanic Whites (1.6 cases per 100,000).¹
2. In California for 2002, as across the Nation, the state continued to display a wide disparity in the rates of TB among California's race and ethnic groups: Asians/Pacific Islander is 29.9 per 100,000 individuals; African-American, 11.6; Hispanics, 11.2; American Indian/Alaskan Native, 3.8; and for Non-Hispanic White, 1.8.²
3. In 2002, of total 1,025 TB cases in Los Angeles County (LAC), Asian/Pacific Islanders were the second leading racial/ethnic group (364 cases, 35.5%) after Hispanics (486 cases, 47.4%). The proportion of Asian/Pacific Islanders TB cases has increased from 30.3% to 35.6% in 1999 to 2001, but remained almost unchanged between 2001 and 2002 (35.5%).³
4. In 2002, of the 364 Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases, 216 (59.3%) were male and 148 (40.7%) were female.
5. The largest number of Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases were found in the 65 years and older age group with 117 cases (32.1%), followed by the 45-54 year old age group with 71 cases (19.5%), the 15-34 year old age group with 67 cases (18.4%), the 35-44 year old age group with 54 cases (14.8%), the 55-64 year old age group with 49 cases (13.5%), the 5-14 year old age group with 5 cases (1.4%), and the 0-4 year old age group with 1 (0.3%) case.
6. Of 364 Asians/Pacific Islander TB cases, almost all were foreign-born 357 (98.0%). Of these 357, 150 (42.0%) were born in the Philippines, 60 (16.8%) in Vietnam, 50 (14.0%) in South Korea, 48 (13.5%) in China, 14 (3.9%) in India, and 35 remaining cases were from 10 other countries.
7. In 2002, 7 (1.9%) TB cases were co-infected with HIV among the 364 Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases.
8. In 2002, there were 4 (1.1%) homeless TB cases among the 364 Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases. Among these 4 cases, 3 were foreign-born males together with 1 foreign-born female.
9. Two hundred ninety four cases (80.8%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB, and 76 (20.9%) as extra-pulmonary TB only.

1. CDC. World TB Day, March 24, 2003 at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/surv/surv2001/content/Tabpost3.htm>

2. California Department of Health Services. California's TB Rate Drops, State Observes World TB Day March 21, 2003

3. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Health and Services, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2002; Volume 2003.